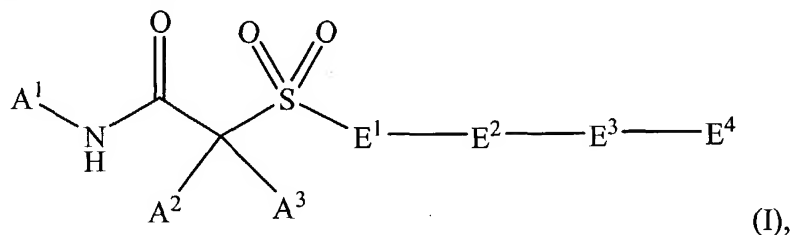


# ABSTRACT

[784] This invention is directed generally to hydroxamic acid and amide compounds (including salts of such compounds), and, more particularly, to aryl- and heteroaryl-arylsulfonylmethyl hydroxamic acids and amides that, *inter alia*, inhibit protease activity, particularly matrix metalloproteinase (also known as “matrix metalloprotease” or “MMP”) activity and/or aggrecanase activity. These compounds generally correspond in structure to Formula I:



wherein A<sup>1</sup>, A<sup>2</sup>, A<sup>3</sup>, E<sup>1</sup>, E<sup>2</sup>, E<sup>3</sup>, and E<sup>4</sup> are as defined in this patent. This invention also is directed to compositions of such compounds, intermediates for the syntheses of such compounds, methods for making such compounds, and methods for treating conditions associated with MMP activity and/or aggrecanase activity, particularly pathological conditions.